
U.S. Department of the Interior • U.S. Geological Survey

MINERAL INDUSTRY SURVEYS

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MARKETABLE PHOSPHATE ROCK IN MARCH 1997

U.S. marketable phosphate rock production in March 1997 increased about 9% compared to the prior month, according to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). Annualized production thus far in 1997 was calculated to be 45.9 million metric tons which was about 5% higher than the total 1996 production of 43.8 million metric tons.

Domestic phosphate rock sold or used, excluding exports for March, increased about 13% compared to the prior month, to 3.6 million tons. Annualized sales or use thus far in 1997 was calculated to be 40.7 or about 3% less than the total for 1996 (Table 3).

U.S. producer ending stocks for March increased about 6% compared with February. In the Florida-North Carolina region, stocks were about 6% higher, while in the Idaho-Utah region,

stocks were 3% higher than the previous month.

U.S. phosphate rock export volume reported to the USGS by domestic producers in March decreased about 96% compared with February 1997 exports. Actual data are withheld from publication to avoid disclosing company proprietary data. Phosphate rock imports from Morocco are suppressed by the Bureau of the Census; total U.S. import tonnage was estimated by USGS to average 150,000 tons per month, or 1.8 million tons per year. March import data were not available at the time of publication.

Apparent domestic consumption for 1996, calculated from the sum of home deliveries and adjusted import data, was 43.9 million tons per year, compared with 42.6 million tons in 1995.

TABLE 1
UNITED STATES PHOSPHATE ROCK STATISTICS, BY REGION 1/

(Thousand metric tons)

Region and period	Marketable production	Sold and/or used	Ending stocks 2/
United States:			
1996 total	43,800	42,100	6,380
Jan.-Mar. 1996	10,100	10,100	XX
1996:			
March	3,590	3,510	5,750
April e/	3,700	3,400	5,920
May	3,820	3,260	6,370
June e/	3,690	3,240	7,050
July e/	3,690	3,780	6,840
August	3,900	3,830	6,860
September	3,540	3,860	6,360
October	4,170	3,600	6,410
November	3,520	3,580	6,330
December	3,620	3,450	6,380
1997:			
January	3,820	3,320	6,750
February	3,600 r/	3,150	7,170 r/
March	3,910	3,560	7,570
Year to date	11,300	10,000	XX
Florida and North Carolina:			
1996 total	37,800	36,300	4,690
Jan.-Mar. 1996	9,050	9,010	XX
1996:			
March	3,170	3,120	3,750
April e/	3,140	2,900	3,850
May	3,200	2,750	4,170
June	3,140	2,690	4,860
July	3,070	3,160	4,660
August	3,310	3,250	4,670
September	2,990	3,170	4,430
October	3,310	3,100	4,490
November	3,280	3,150	4,600
December	3,290	3,080	4,690
1997:			
January	3,440	2,930	5,080
February	3,170	2,820	5,390
March	3,460	3,160	5,730
Year to date	10,100	8,910	XX
Idaho and Utah:			
1996 total	5,980	5,830	1,690
Jan.-Mar. 1996	1,050	1,090	XX
1996:			
March	421	389	2,000 e/
April	564	495	2,070 e/
May	618	511	2,200
June e/	554	552	2,190
July e/	614	614	2,190
August	591	576	2,190 e/
September	552	690 e/	1,930 e/
October	860	501	1,920
November	241	427	1,730
December	334	376	1,690
1997:			
January	376	392	1,670
February	433 r/	326	1,780 r/
March	455	395	1,840
Year to date	1,260	1,110	XX

e/ Estimated. r/ Revised. XX Not applicable.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Includes inventory adjustments.

TABLE 2
U.S. IMPORTS OF PHOSPHATE ROCK 1/ 2/ 3/

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars)

Period	Imports	
	Quantity	Value
1996 total e/	1,800	105,000
Jan.-Feb. 1996	64	3,762
1996: 4/		
February	64	3,730
March	49	2,790
April	(5/)	2
May	62	3,660
June	64	3,710
July	70	3,990
August	67	3,870
September	66	3,820
October	(5/)	26
November	66	3,780
December	67	3,850
1997:		
January	101	4,310
February	(5/)	23
Year to date	101	4,333

e/ Estimated.

1/ Data supplied by the Bureau of the Census under the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States HTS Nos. 2510.10.0000 and 2510.20.0000.

2/ C.i.f. (cost, insurance, and freight) values at U.S. ports.

3/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

4/ Excludes data suppressed by the Bureau of the Census.

5/ Less than 1/2 unit.

TABLE 3
COMPARATIVE PHOSPHATE ROCK STATISTICS

(Million metric tons per year and dollars per metric ton for period shown)

	1994	1995	1996	1997
United States:				
Marketable production:				
Florida and North Carolina	34.0	38.0	37.8	40.8
Idaho and Utah	7.1	5.5	6.0	5.1
Total 1/	41.1	43.5	43.8	45.9
Sold or used by producers: 2/				
Florida and North Carolina	37.4	38.1	36.3	36.1
Idaho and Utah	6.7	5.6	5.8	4.5
Total 1/	44.1	43.7	42.1	40.7
Yearend stocks	6.0	5.7	6.4	XX
Exports	2.8	2.9	W	W
Average value per ton	\$25.60	\$25.66	\$31.56	\$41.04
Imports for consumption	1.8 e/	1.8 e/	1.8 e/	1.8 e/
Average value per ton	\$48.76	\$51.30	57.84 e/	XX
Apparent consumption	43.1 e/	42.6 e/	43.9 e/	42.5 e/

e/ Estimated. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data. XX Not applicable.

1/ Data may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding.

2/ Includes exports reported by producers.

3/ Calculated as domestic sold or used plus imports, where imports are estimated to average about 150,000 tons per month, (and though the average monthly estimate may appreciably exceed any one month's reported imports).